

Susan Marshall: Yes. You were born in Iowa.

Mabel L. Davis: I was born in Iowa.

Susan Marshall: What date, do you remember? 1900?

Mabel L. Davis: 1910.

Susan Marshall: 1910. Do you remember where you lived at that time?

Mabel L. Davis: Mount Ayr, Iowa, so I was from Mount Ayr, Iowa. I don't know why you want to know me.

Susan Marshall: Now you told me that your parents came here, you were not born here.

Mabel L. Davis: I must have been about 8 years old.

Susan Marshall: About 8 years old. When you first came here, where did you live?

[00:01:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Lived in Colorado Springs. I just sold a house.

Susan Marshall: How long were you there?

Mabel L. Davis: Until I was married at 30. At 30, I was married.

Susan Marshall: The last thing you talked about was your parents, and how long they lived in Colorado Springs.

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know, oh the same time. Let's see, I was 8 years old, that would be 19 ...

Susan Marshall: '18, if you were ...

Mabel L. Davis: No, 19, or 18 ... I don't know.

Susan Marshall: Yes, well you were born in 1910, and 8 years would make it 1919 or 1918.

[00:02:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah. It was after the war and then we moved.

Susan Marshall: After the war?

Mabel L. Davis: World War 1.

Susan Marshall: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Do you remember any part of that, about the war? Do you remember?

Mabel L. Davis: No, I don't remember that much.

Susan Marshall: Okay. Tell me a little bit about your parents, your mother and father.

Mabel L. Davis: What's to tell? I don't know.

Susan Marshall: What were they mostly? What was their origin?

Mabel L. Davis: They had to rent the farm, and they sold it and moved to Mount Ayr, Iowa, from the farm.

Susan Marshall: Were their people from another country or from here?

Mabel L. Davis: No.

Susan Marshall: They're all natural-born here?

[00:03:00]

Mabel L. Davis: He was born, yeah, both of them. She was the Houston tribe, related to that.

Susan Marshall: When you were in Colorado Springs, did you go to school there?

Mabel L. Davis: I started there.

Susan Marshall: Do you remember anything about the school?

Mabel L. Davis: No. We didn't have school buses then, so I got lost once or twice. I'd get back to the farm.

Susan Marshall: How far away were you, do you know?

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know, it must have been 4 or 5 miles.

Susan Marshall: You were too young to remember?

Mabel L. Davis: I was too young. My brother was too busy playing football or something. He didn't pick me up.

Susan Marshall: How many children were in your family?

Mabel L. Davis: Just 2.

Susan Marshall: You and your brother?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative). He was 9 years older than me.

Susan Marshall: 9 years? What was his name?

[00:04:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Donald, but he died several years ago, or 50, 60 years ago.

Susan Marshall: Oh my goodness, I forgot ...

Mabel L. Davis: Before we moved here anyway, but that don't make any difference on me. I'm not an old timer.

Susan Marshall: His name was Donald?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Susan Marshall: Okay. What was his last name, your maiden name?

Mabel L. Davis: Buck.

Susan Marshall: Beck. Your mother and father were Becks, right? When you moved here, did you come right to Salida?

Mabel L. Davis: No, to Colorado Springs.

Susan Marshall: Oh, to Colorado Springs, okay.

Mabel L. Davis: We lived in Colorado Springs.

Susan Marshall: I see. I didn't know that. Then you came here after that?

Mabel L. Davis: I came, went to Denver, and my husband worked up there. Then we got transferred down here in '54.

[00:05:00]

Susan Marshall: Oh I see.

Mabel L. Davis: Or '53, it was.

Susan Marshall: When you were married?

Mabel L. Davis: I was married then yes, Lord yes.

Susan Marshall: What was the year that you were married?

Mabel L. Davis: I was 20.

Susan Marshall: You were 20?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah.

Susan Marshall: Then it had to be 1930.

Mabel L. Davis: '30.

Susan Marshall: Right.

Mabel L. Davis: That's right, now I'm remembering. You forget.

Susan Marshall: Your husband's name was?

Mabel L. Davis: Ralph. He's from the southern Davis'.

Susan Marshall: From where?

Mabel L. Davis: The southern Davis'.

Susan Marshall: Oh really?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, his dad was a friend of, what was his name?

Susan Marshall: Jeff Davis?

Mabel L. Davis: Jeff.

Susan Marshall: Really?

Mabel L. Davis: They were cousins.

[00:06:00]

Susan Marshall: That's very interesting, cousin of Jeff Davis.

Mabel L. Davis: How do I remember that?

Susan Marshall: See, you never know till you get the questions.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah. He was southern.

Susan Marshall: What do you remember of your schooling after you got here?

Mabel L. Davis: I went through grade school and high school at Colorado Springs, graduated 1929 or '30? '29.

Susan Marshall: Okay, and then after you were married, you came here?

Mabel L. Davis: No, we went to Denver. My husband worked for a telephone company, and then he changed and went to public service, and they moved us to Denver. Then we moved down here, he got transferred down here, and we wouldn't move any more. We liked it.

Susan Marshall: Yes, it's an easy place to like, I like it too.

Mabel L. Davis: It's a nice place to live.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, it's beautiful.

[00:07:00]

Mabel L. Davis: You know that.

Susan Marshall: Oh yes. I'm looking for ...

Mabel L. Davis: You got too many papers.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, too many. Now I've found this one. What was the first place after you were married that you lived here in the Salida area, after you were transferred?

Mabel L. Davis: I can't remember the name of the people. They were out on 120, and they had a house, we rented. Then we found a house that we moved into, and that's where we stayed.

Susan Marshall: That was in Salida?

Mabel L. Davis: There's was in the county, between the two towns. Then we moved to Poncha, and it's been 30 years ago. I mean 50 years ago.

[00:08:00]

Susan Marshall: In Poncha Springs, where you are now? I see.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah. Now we got it straight.

Susan Marshall: Okay, tell me, I know you have a son. Where does he live?

Mabel L. Davis: In Buena Vista.

Susan Marshall: Oh, and what does he do?

Mabel L. Davis: He works for the prison up there, for the prison ...

Susan Marshall: The Buena Vista Correctional?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, he quit his job. He was chief of police for years. He didn't like retirement.

Susan Marshall: Oh, he went back to ...

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, they talked him into it.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, they probably needed him. Do you have other children?

Mabel L. Davis: I just have the one son.

Susan Marshall: I never did hear you say, so I thought I'd ask.

Mabel L. Davis: Well everybody knows him.

Susan Marshall: I'm sure.

Mabel L. Davis: He went to school here in Salida.

[00:09:00]

Susan Marshall: I'd like you to tell me something about that. Was that the school that is now the town hall?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, he started there and he didn't like it out there. There were other people that didn't like it, so he started down here in Salida and that's where he ended. He was in ... Oh I can't think. Anyway, he graduated from Salida High School.

Susan Marshall: He graduated from Salida High School?

Mabel L. Davis: Don't ask me what year.

Susan Marshall: No, but when he went there, did they have football games, and did he take part in the sports?

Mabel L. Davis: In Salida.

Susan Marshall: In Salida?

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yes, he was in sports.

[00:10:00]

Susan Marshall: Do you remember any of the plays or programs they had over Christmas or Thanksgiving?

Mabel L. Davis: He was in the choir, and they traveled.

Susan Marshall: Oh, he liked to sing? Had a good voice?

Mabel L. Davis: Well, he was mediocre.

Susan Marshall: Well now, he'd be in the choir, he'd be well-trained.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yeah, he liked John Held.

Susan Marshall: Hmm?

Mabel L. Davis: John Held.

Susan Marshall: Yes, very well-known man in the area, and now the auditorium is named for him, right. I think the kids all just loved him.

Mabel L. Davis: He was great. She was nice too.

Susan Marshall: Yes, I talked to Mary the other day. She was here for lunch.

Mabel L. Davis: She taught grade school.

Susan Marshall: Oh I didn't know that. That's part of our story.

Mabel L. Davis: I'm pretty sure.

Susan Marshall: I'm glad to hear that, yeah. Did you have chores to do after school when you were growing up? Did everybody have to do something?

Mabel L. Davis: Nah.

[00:11:00]

Susan Marshall: We say in the old days, no? How about your son, did he help out around the house?

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know. I don't think so.

Susan Marshall: What kind of transportation did you have?

Mabel L. Davis: We had an old car, it was a nice car at that time.

Susan Marshall: You bet.

Mabel L. Davis: They were open ...

Susan Marshall: Touring car, open.

Mabel L. Davis: They had side curtains, all that stuff. That's been a good many years ago.

Susan Marshall: Just think how early you had a car.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, they had a car as long as I can remember.

Susan Marshall: Do you know where they bought it?

Mabel L. Davis: In Iowa. The first car we had was from there. Then they bought, after they

got out here ... I guess I missed them coming tomorrow .

Susan Marshall: I guess so.

Mabel L. Davis: I guess I'm coming in tomorrow.

[00:12:00]

Susan Marshall: You're fine, you're fine. Do you remember any special characters? I'm going to put it off, the voices are too loud.

Mabel L. Davis: Just wait a while.

Susan Marshall: Do you remember any special characters in town?

Mabel L. Davis: What's that?

Susan Marshall: Any kind of character, an individual that stood out?

Mabel L. Davis: No, I don't remember anything.

Susan Marshall: No? The year that your husband was mayor, he was mayor in ...

Mabel L. Davis: Poncha Springs in late '60, '70, '72? Something like that, I don't remember.

Susan Marshall: That's when you served?

Mabel L. Davis: No, before when we first moved here, they needed somebody to take notes at the town council. I said, "Well, I don't type." "That's all right, we just want you to write what's going on." In the morning got here, and I went to work, went to town. That was in '50.

[00:13:00]

Susan Marshall: I think that was wonderful. How many years did he serve, do we know? 2 or 4?

Mabel L. Davis: Twice, because it was 2 years, the term.

Susan Marshall: A 2 year term you're saying.

Mabel L. Davis: He quit ...

Susan Marshall: Go ahead.

Mabel L. Davis: Go ahead.

Susan Marshall: I was going to change the question to, do you remember the early businesses that you would go to to buy things, or do things with?

Mabel L. Davis: No, I didn't do any of that. I took the notes.

Susan Marshall: In Poncha, were there many businesses, or were there mostly ...

Mabel L. Davis: Mostly about what's there now.

Susan Marshall: Well, because of the fire, the big fire ...

[00:14:00]

Mabel L. Davis: That was before my time.

Susan Marshall: Yes it was, right.

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know about that.

Susan Marshall: No, well that's in a history book.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, that's in the history books.

Susan Marshall: Do you remember any people that went to war from here in World War II, or any of the other big wars? Do you remember any local people?

Mabel L. Davis: I can't remember who did.

Susan Marshall: Do you remember if any woman took their place in a job or something, like in the factories?

Mabel L. Davis: (negative response), I didn't have anything to do with anything like that.

Susan Marshall: No, but I wondered here, how it affected life here. Maybe not much?

[00:15:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Not much of anything changed.

Susan Marshall: Okay. How about the times that we had Typhoid fever, or diphtheria? We had diseases.

Mabel L. Davis: Wasn't in my time.

Susan Marshall: You didn't?

Mabel L. Davis: Not in the 50 years I think.

Susan Marshall: I think you were well-protected here, I think.

Mabel L. Davis: Yes, evidently.

Susan Marshall: Yes, you didn't have all the big city traffic, and you had a rural life so that ... What did your husband mostly do for work?

Mabel L. Davis: He was an electrician with the public service company. They built substations all over San Luis Valley, his crew did.

Susan Marshall: He was here, there, and everywhere.

Mabel L. Davis: He was traveling off and on, so I had to keep busy.

Susan Marshall: At one time I think you said you did a lot of driving for him in the automobile, you drove.
[00:16:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Not for him, but everybody else. Took everybody where they wanted to go or something, needed the help.

Susan Marshall: When we worked together on the UAACOG committee, you and I and Bill were on the UAACOG group that went ... You took us to Buena Vista for one meeting.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh we did?

Susan Marshall: You took us to Canon City for one meeting, and then Bill ...

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, I drove a lot for the Area .

Susan Marshall: For the different agencies, yes.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, I remember that now. Yeah, I took them, went to all the meetings.

Susan Marshall: What do you think is the biggest change we've had in your lifetime here?

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know, huh?

Susan Marshall: A lot more people.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yeah, the people. My goodness, what it's doing to our town now.
[00:17:00]

Susan Marshall: Yeah, and newer businesses.

Mabel L. Davis: Poncha's about the same as it was 50 years ago.

Susan Marshall: It doesn't change.

Mabel L. Davis: It doesn't change much.

Susan Marshall: All these new homes are not in the town.

Mabel L. Davis: They're in the county, actually.

Susan Marshall: Right, miles out. Some of them are just beautiful, big homes. I didn't check yet with the tapes at the town hall, but I need to remember that.

Mabel L. Davis: Yes, I can go over there with you and tell you.

Susan Marshall: I wonder if they would know where they are.

Mabel L. Davis: I can talk to them about it, because we saved it, and they gave us this thing
[00:18:00] to put them in, in the back room. They probably don't even know what it is.

Susan Marshall: I think there's nobody there now who would remember them, so we have to remind them. What would you especially like to say about your town, or Salida?

Mabel L. Davis: It's a good place to live, I know that. I've been happy for 50 years being here, and I don't want to leave.

Susan Marshall: I don't either.

Mabel L. Davis: I never lived in Salida, just a few months. We went back to Poncha.

Susan Marshall: I want to thank you a lot for your help.

Mabel L. Davis: Is that all you ... I thought you wanted to know something about the town.

Susan Marshall: I do, but I wanted you to tell me what you remembered about the town.
[00:19:00]

Mabel L. Davis: All I remember is going to work for them in '54. Got paid, I think it was 5 dollars every 3 months or something, so I gave it to the booster's club.

Susan Marshall: There's a thought, now the booster's club started how long ago?

Mabel L. Davis: We were going there in 50 years ago, but it fell apart when all the older kids left, and we don't have it anymore I don't think much.

Susan Marshall: Yes we do.

Mabel L. Davis: We do?

Susan Marshall: We have maybe 6 or 8 people, and I'll tell you who's in charge of it is Diana Wood.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, Diana.

Susan Marshall: Mrs. Holman is in it.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, she's one, the Holmans. It was the Holman boy that finally moved it, he has it going good, but I don't know what's happened to it now.

Susan Marshall: They do a few things.

[00:20:00]

Mabel L. Davis: For funerals and stuff.

Susan Marshall: In the cemetery every year they do a cleanup.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, we always had a cleanup.

Susan Marshall: Who started the little library over in town hall?

Mabel L. Davis: No, it's a museum.

Susan Marshall: Museum.

Mabel L. Davis: The Woods helped me. Diana Woods made the curtains that are still there. Isn't that awful? I was quite active in booster's club, but I never was an officer.

Susan Marshall: How many people were in it when you were working?

Mabel L. Davis: 25, 30.

Susan Marshall: A lot.

Mabel L. Davis: From all over the country, it wasn't just a town, it was a community.

Susan Marshall: When did it fall apart?

[00:21:00]

Mabel L. Davis: When the kids, the Holman boys left the town.

Susan Marshall: Mrs. Holman still lives here.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yes.

Susan Marshall: She contributed a lot of things to the museum. It's on your list of the things that were contributed.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, I had that list.

Susan Marshall: Yes, and I typed it all, so it's in a book there, your book.

Mabel L. Davis: There's stuff in that, because those tapes are, I think. We got to find those tapes.

Susan Marshall: All the lists of the families who donated the first things, the clothing and the furniture, and different things that were donated.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, we kept track so they got credit for it.

Susan Marshall: Of course, and those are some of the things that are ...

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah we did that.

Susan Marshall: ... In your book, yeah, they're all listed.

Mabel L. Davis: I forget who did that for us. Maybe Jeanne would know, Jeanne Holman. She should be here with me.

[00:22:00]

Susan Marshall: That would be nice.

Mabel L. Davis: We both remembered those things. His father was mayor for years, Holman.

Susan Marshall: They've always lived here as far as you know?

Mabel L. Davis: As far as I know. I forget, they told me, but I can't remember.

Susan Marshall: Yeah. I imagine that Mrs. Holman will be interviewed. She's on our list to help us build the story back from Poncha Springs.

Mabel L. Davis: She and I together put out a flyer. I'll get it to you. She and I had printed it, and I gave it to people that came in to us. I didn't know we were going to do this today, or I'd have brought it.

Susan Marshall: I didn't call you to remind you. I wasn't sure that you'd be feeling like coming. I'm very glad that you came and that you were willing to talk to us.
[00:23:00]

Mabel L. Davis: I haven't told you much.

Susan Marshall: Things that I would never know, and that the other people who do the research would not know. This will be taken off on a disk and filed in the archives at the Salida Library, so it is a very worthwhile project to help rebuild the history, people that remember.

Mabel L. Davis: I quit being active when I retired from the town council when I was 72.

Susan Marshall: I was going to say.

Mabel L. Davis: I said what's the name of the president ... If he could run, be president, I could sit on the town council. I quit, finally.

Susan Marshall: You were on it a long time.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yeah.

Susan Marshall: You served a long time.

Mabel L. Davis: Off and on.

[00:24:00]

Susan Marshall: Do you remember some of the people who served with you?

Mabel L. Davis: I could if I could remember.

Susan Marshall: If anybody comes to mind, then you tell me. Do you remember the Steam Plant very well?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, hey, it was his business.

Susan Marshall: Down in Salida?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative). He was in and out there, he did the wiring part of it.

Susan Marshall: It's very much changed you know.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh my, I've been in there, yes it isn't a Steam Plant anymore.

Susan Marshall: No, they have a big stage, and good lighting ...

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative), I know that.

Susan Marshall: ... For all those great programs. One thing I forgot to ask you is about the Smelter Town.

Mabel L. Davis: I don't know too much about that.

Susan Marshall: You know the big chimney that's there that ...

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yeah.

Susan Marshall: That was part of it, and they had buildings around it that you don't see anymore.

[00:25:00]

Mabel L. Davis: No, I don't think there was much there when I came. You want to find somebody in Smelter Town, you told them from there where to go.

Susan Marshall: I got this at the art festival, and didn't it used to look like that? Can you see? There are little buildings on the side of the smokestack.

Mabel L. Davis: There might have been one building by it, but it was torn down.

Susan Marshall: Yes, they're not there now, and I wondered if you remembered any of those buildings around there.

Mabel L. Davis: No, I can't right now, no. I wasn't very active with that.

Susan Marshall: That was quite a large business at one time wasn't it?

Mabel L. Davis: Yes, I guess so. We had a business over there but where you live.

Susan Marshall: Oh, in Poncha?

[00:26:00]

Mabel L. Davis: On the hill there, back of the track. They burnt ... What did they have, bricks?

Susan Marshall: Bricks?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, did you know?

Susan Marshall: That's a kiln, yeah.

Mabel L. Davis: It was on that hill.

Susan Marshall: The bricks for the ...

Mabel L. Davis: Town.

Susan Marshall: ... Were made in the area. The history books said all the bricks that were used in the first schools, and the old school building, were all made in this area.

Mabel L. Davis: In that plant.

Susan Marshall: Really?

Mabel L. Davis: It's nothing there anymore.

Susan Marshall: No, you can't tell. Do you remember where the little depot was in Poncho Springs?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Susan Marshall: I can't figure out where it was.

Mabel L. Davis: It was, as you go up toward the hill from your place, it was right by the railroad tracks there, where it was. It was to the right side as you go up this hill, that was where the river was. Last people that lived there were somebody that lives in town here now. I'll think of it.
[00:27:00]

Susan Marshall: There's no trace of the place where the depot was, and I got a picture of it.

Mabel L. Davis: I know where it is, it was.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, but a lot of people don't even have an idea where it used to be. I know the train used to go right through there, the little narrow gauge train.

Mabel L. Davis: Yes.

Susan Marshall: Yes and it came over Marshall Pass and went as far as Maysville I think, and turned around on a turntable.

Mabel L. Davis: That was its end.

Susan Marshall: Yes.

Mabel L. Davis: Before they went over ... I went down most on that train when I was in ... I can't remember what year, but I went over to Alamosa and back.

Susan Marshall: Oh my goodness.

Mabel L. Davis: On that train that went around the pass.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, I bet that was a very beautiful trip.

[00:28:00]

Mabel L. Davis: I didn't think anything about it, it was just one way to get there.

Susan Marshall: When did that quit, do you know? No, I don't either.

Mabel L. Davis: My son might remember.

Susan Marshall: The tracks are all gone too.

Mabel L. Davis: That was sad.

Susan Marshall: I think so, I wish we still had it.

Mabel L. Davis: You know they ought to make a road, or walkway or something out of the whole thing.

Susan Marshall: Yeah. I think it was a beautiful area to have a little train in.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh it was, and it was so much fun to hear it blow the whistles.

Susan Marshall: Yes, we miss things like that.

Mabel L. Davis: I can't remember who's the last people who lived in there. I can't think of their name.

Susan Marshall: Maybe Mrs. Holman will think of it.

Mabel L. Davis: I doubt she does.

Susan Marshall: If it comes up. The same things do not always ...

Mabel L. Davis: That person is still alive. I'll think of it someday.

Susan Marshall: Let me know.

Mabel L. Davis: I'll let you know.

Susan Marshall: I can add it on.

[00:29:00]

Mabel L. Davis: She might know something about it. I can't think of her name.

Susan Marshall: It will come to you.

Mabel L. Davis: I hadn't thought of them in years.

Susan Marshall: I think that's these questions.

Mabel L. Davis: Of course at my age you don't remember either.

Susan Marshall: I know that. I think you've done very well.

Mabel L. Davis: I don't think so.

Susan Marshall: I would like to hear if you have any great story to tell us that you'd like people to remember about your life or your family. No?

Mabel L. Davis: We never were that important.

Susan Marshall: That's part of the picture, that's what I've done. If you think of anything ... I did forget to ask you about, you know over in the museum we have all those trophies in the showcase in our ...

Mabel L. Davis: That was from parades down here.

Susan Marshall: Is that FIBArk?

[00:30:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative). That was the beginning of FIBArk.

Susan Marshall: Really?

Mabel L. Davis: We always had a float from the town. We worked for days to ...

Susan Marshall: You got several prizes, I think that ...

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative), we got prizes.

Susan Marshall: I think you had first place at least 4 times.

Mabel L. Davis: The money we used as well, we just built another the next year.

Susan Marshall: Really?

Mabel L. Davis: You didn't even ... When we opened this we had in the parade, but Dick got tired of doing all the work, and I could see why.

Susan Marshall: They must have been wonderful because the prize ...

Mabel L. Davis: A lot of old people.

Susan Marshall: ... The trophies are this big, and they have signs on the year. They're in the corner of your ...

Mabel L. Davis: Does it tell what year?

Susan Marshall: Yes.

Mabel L. Davis: That was from the parade. I ought to go over there with you.

Susan Marshall: Maybe we can do that some time.

[00:31:00]

Mabel L. Davis: I think it would be better for you. I could tell you where most of those things come from.

Susan Marshall: I'm sure. Do you remember Mary Rossum?

Mabel L. Davis: She was a good friend of mine.

Susan Marshall: How nice.

Mabel L. Davis: We were close friends, and her husband. We were all close. They both

worked for public service, my husband and her.

Susan Marshall: I see. What did her husband do, the same thing?

Mabel L. Davis: No, he was a real estate man. She finally got a license to sell. They tried to talk me into it, but I didn't do it, and I should have.

Susan Marshall: You could've.

Mabel L. Davis: I could've.

Susan Marshall: Yes. I was told that he built that house.

Mabel L. Davis: Yes, he did. He had it built and helped.

Susan Marshall: It's very nicely laid out, comfortable.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh it's very nice. He has even an office in back, he has.

Susan Marshall: That's that third room.

Mabel L. Davis: Is that the one you use for an office?

Susan Marshall: Yes.

Mabel L. Davis: I remember that.

Susan Marshall: I wondered about that.

[00:32:00]

Mabel L. Davis: I remember when she got the stoves in the kitchen and all that.

Susan Marshall: Oh really? I wanted to tell you that when I first went over to town hall, I saw a plaque to Mary Rossum that said, "In appreciation of her contribution to the community." I wondered if it was because of the things she did to help the school out.

Mabel L. Davis: She just was in everything.

Susan Marshall: That's what I thought. She was very active in the community.

Mabel L. Davis: She was so active. She knew everything and everybody in the country, because she was at the desk in public service.

Susan Marshall: I see. She was as good as a newspaper, she could tell you what was going on. I did see a photo of a picnic in the park.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, we had picnics every year.

[00:33:00]

Susan Marshall: I thought it was just wonderful. It was a big crowd there, and I thought I saw her playing a piano.

Mabel L. Davis: Yes, she always did.

Susan Marshall: Did she? Then she must have been part of the program.

Mabel L. Davis: She was quite musical.

Susan Marshall: I'm glad to hear that, I really didn't know.

That would be great.

Mabel L. Davis: I haven't told you much.

Susan Marshall: You remembered the picnics, and I think that's wonderful.

Mabel L. Davis: Always had picnics and ...

Susan Marshall: Remember the gazebo in the park?

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yes. I'll tell you, it was Beck's, when he was a boy he'd go down there. Did I write that down?

Susan Marshall: No.

Mabel L. Davis: When he was a boy, he used to go to this hotel because he knew when the time for the stagecoaches to come in. He'd sit there and talk to everybody who came in. What else? The horses would drink, and the people were drinking it.

[00:34:00]

Susan Marshall: That's the Jackson Hotel, and it was a stagecoach stop for many years.

Mabel L. Davis: The front door in there is where they stopped. That's why I don't know what I wrote about that, but he would tell me about what went on. He was an interesting guy. Do I have a tape of him? I have it of a woman. We're going to have to go outside.

Susan Marshall: What was his name, this boy?

Mabel L. Davis: Oh shoot.

Susan Marshall: Maybe he had a nickname.

Mabel L. Davis: I'll tell you who needs to be here and being interviewed with me is Louise Watson. She would remember.

Susan Marshall: Where does she live?

[00:35:00]

Mabel L. Davis: Jeanne will know too, she probably will remember his first name, and I knew it.

Susan Marshall: That's okay.

Mabel L. Davis: They had a son Jerry, and I don't know, my kids went to school with him.

Susan Marshall: The Jackson Hotel was very active at that time. That was the ...

Mabel L. Davis: That was the place to stop, and they went from 4 directions.

Susan Marshall: From there.

Mabel L. Davis: They would change and go into another one.

Susan Marshall: I'll be darned.

Mabel L. Davis: Say it was going south, you got in that one. Yes, the hotel was very prominent at that time.

Susan Marshall: I think it's amazing that it's still operating.

Mabel L. Davis: It's just wonderful, they've kept it up.

Susan Marshall: I know. It's because people have taken an interest in the business.

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yeah. Most people that I knew that run it had an interest in the town.

[00:36:00]

Susan Marshall: Yeah, it's quite a landmark. Very famous. Can you think of anything else you'd like to talk to me about?

Mabel L. Davis: No. You just asked me, that's all I ... Jerry, what was his name? I'll think of it. Anyway, we saved any home and took it, because they were going to destroy it. He took it over to his mother's place, and when we built the park, then we brought it over and we had a fellow in town that wanted to do it, and he fixed it.

Susan Marshall: You're talking about the gazebo, the little gazebo?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative), the gazebo.

[00:37:00]

Susan Marshall: Ray Bachus' father decided to fix it up.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, and the town paid him to.

Susan Marshall: Painted it and got it in good shape. I think it's very pretty, and I just learned that just recently, that it was ...

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, I knew them. I was on the board then, or my husband. What year was that? Centennial, I can't remember.

Susan Marshall: 1980. From 1880 to 1980, 100 years celebration.

Mabel L. Davis: That's when we did the museum.

Susan Marshall: Is that when you did the museum?

Mabel L. Davis: They suggested it, and I had a bunch of stuff, and Jeanne had ... We got her done. Everybody helped us.

Susan Marshall: Yes, I'm glad you had such an active organization, and I wish we still did.

Mabel L. Davis: That's the trouble. When we got too old, this town was too commercialized.

[00:38:00]

Susan Marshall: There weren't enough young people to take an interest. I don't mean young, I mean younger, to take over.

Mabel L. Davis: They only want, what was it, 2 Holman boys, and they helped to keep it going, booster club. They knew about that too because their grandmother and grandfather lived there for years. I was town clerk, and she was the trader. He was the mayor.

Susan Marshall: You worked together very closely.

Mabel L. Davis: We were very close.

Susan Marshall: That's terrific. That's good news for the town, and something I didn't know anything about.

Mabel L. Davis: That's too bad that he had to lose his life though.

Susan Marshall: What did happen?

Mabel L. Davis: He was in an airplane going to a meeting over at Durango, and there was an, Everett was killed, and Everett. Anyway, this guy was flying them over and they had this accident, it was this old airplane.

Susan Marshall: A small plane or ...

Mabel L. Davis: No it was a small plane.

Susan Marshall: Not commercial.

[00:39:00]

Mabel L. Davis: It wasn't commercial.

Susan Marshall: Private plane.

Mabel L. Davis: I guess. I can't remember now, but Jeanne would remember. That was sad when they lost Eddie.

Susan Marshall: Terrible. You did say that one of these lady's fathers started the airport, or at least did a building?

Mabel L. Davis: Edna Martin.

Susan Marshall: Yes.

Mabel L. Davis: He owned the land, and they need the airport, so he started it.

Susan Marshall: That's where it began, and it's still operating.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, but not like it was. It was just a place for them to land.

Susan Marshall: Yeah. People come in private planes in and out of there, but nothing large.

Mabel L. Davis: They had to make a big runway for it.

Susan Marshall: Yes. The big, I think, airport is up in Buena Vista. There's a big one.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah it's nice one, and that's the way it started, so they say.

[00:40:00]

Susan Marshall: As a small one, and then built bigger?

Mabel L. Davis: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Susan Marshall: I think they have quite a runway up there.

Mabel L. Davis: It's quite good.

Susan Marshall: Do you remember going to Buena Vista very much?

Mabel L. Davis: My son lives there.

Susan Marshall: Yes, and you visited?

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, why?

Susan Marshall: Have you ever been in the big courthouse up there?

Mabel L. Davis: Yes.

Susan Marshall: They have a terrific museum.

Mabel L. Davis: I know they do.

Susan Marshall: Yeah, it's all one whole floor.

Mabel L. Davis: You know that museum we have over there is nothing's been put in lately. Nobody takes care of it.

Susan Marshall: I know more about that because I was involved in getting the display board in better shape. I wasn't permitted to finish it because they said I didn't know the people. I just wanted to rearrange.

Mabel L. Davis: You should have had me with you.

Susan Marshall: If I'd had you, I think they would have allowed me to finish.

[00:41:00]

Mabel L. Davis: I think they would have. If you still want to do some, all you have to do is get me there.

Susan Marshall: I'm sure that's true. I couldn't find anybody at the time.

Mabel L. Davis: Jeanne would have done it I think.

Susan Marshall: Yes but I don't know all those people.

Mabel L. Davis: The Woods, and Glenna Scanga. What was her name before she married Scanga? There I go again.

Susan Marshall: You know her name today.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, I know her. She just got married to some guy. Diane knows, and Danny. That's who you talk to if you want to know something. They remember. Of course he didn't but told her ... My son and them went to school together, and Glenna.

[00:42:00]

Susan Marshall: She did lately say there were 6 or 8 people who were still interested in helping. I don't know them, but she did say that lately.

Mabel L. Davis: For what?

Susan Marshall: For the museum. Diane said she had about 6 different people.

Mabel L. Davis: She knows enough to ask me.

Susan Marshall: Yes, yes.

Mabel L. Davis: Yeah, she would remember her, and her sister-in-law Glenna.

Susan Marshall: I don't think I met them, although I do know Diane.

Mabel L. Davis: Scanga, she married Scanga.

Susan Marshall: It's a well-known name in the area.

Mabel L. Davis: I can't think of it. She was a Wood, Glenna was a Woods.

Susan Marshall: She was part of that family?

Mabel L. Davis: Oh yes, they're all ... That was her brothers. I haven't told you anything.

[00:43:00]

Susan Marshall: Yes you have, and I appreciate it very much, and thank you. I'm going to put it ...

This is Susan Marshall for the Salida Oral History Project. I have been interviewing Mabel L. Davis at the Senior Citizen's Center in Salida, 305 F Street. Mabel is 93 years old and has lived in her home in Poncha Springs for 50 years. Her address there is 225 East Way, Highway 50, Poncha Springs. The date is October 24th, 2003.